

# THE VOLTINISM OF *PSEUDARGYROTOZA CONWAGANA* (FABRICUS) (LEP.: TORTRICIDAE)

By A. M. EMMET\*

The unexpected sight of a fresh female *P. conwagana* in my MV trap after the night 27/28 October 1987 sent me to the literature and my previous records. Stainton (1859), Wilkinson (1859), Morris (1872) and Meyrick (1928) all give June as the flight period of the adult, Ford (1949) and Emmet (1979) give May-July and Bradley, Tremewan & Smith (1973) May-early July. None of them mentions a second generation.

My own records, however, suggest that a smaller second generation is normal and that the late October specimen could be from a third. Bradley *et al.* (*op. cit.*) state that this mainly day-flying species is seldom seen at light and I would have agreed prior to 1987. This year nearly 150 came to the trap in my garden at Saffron Walden, though no doubt some individuals presented themselves more than once. The date of appearance for 1985-1987 indicate a first generation flying mainly from mid June until mid July but with individuals persisting to the end of the month, and a second from mid August until early September. These are the figures:—

	First generation	Second generation
1985	2 (29, 30 June)	5 (21-29 August)
1986	5 (2-13 July)	4 (13 August - 1 September)
1987	123 (20 June - 1 August, 109 of them before 13 July)	22 (18 August - 2 September)

The figures are approximate. I use the following code to record numbers:— F (few) = 2-5; S (several) = 6-10; M (many) = 11+. For the purposes of this paper I have taken F as 3, S as 6 and M (27 June and 20 August) as 11.

These data have immediate practical importance with a new edition of *A field guide to the smaller British Lepidoptera* in preparation. I would welcome supporting or conflicting evidence to ensure that the new entry for this species is correct.

Many of the Tortricinae are polyphagous. British authors cite only *Ligustrum* and *Fraxinus* as foodplants for *P. conwagana*, though Bradley *et al.* (*op. cit.*) add *Berberis* and *Syringa* from Continental sources. Is there any evidence that the two apparent generations feed on different foodplants? Has anyone recorded the adult

\*Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 3A.

as early as May? Would the seeds or berries in which the larva feeds be then ready for oviposition?

### References

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- Stainton, H. T., 1859. *A manual of British butterflies and moths*, xi, 480 pp., text figs. London.
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### Note

It is clear from a number of sources that *P. conwagana* had an exceptionally good year in 1987. My Orpington (Kent) trap usually yields 3 or 4 specimens per year, generally in July. In 1987 the tally was 19 June – 31 July, 85, (82 before 15 July); 28 August – 3 September, 2, and a single specimen on the night of 30th October! Ian Ferguson, who also runs a trap in Orpington, logged 90 specimens between 10 June and 27 July. — PAUL SOKOLOFF.

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SECOND GENERATION LARVA OF EPERMENIA ILLIGERELLA (HBN.) (LEP.: EPERMENIIDAE) — Emmet ([1979] *A field guide to the smaller British Lepidoptera*: 77) states that the second generation larva of *Epermenia illigerella* occurs in umbels of *Angelica sylvestris*. I have bred the second generation several times from larvae collected in July and have never found them in the umbels. On every occasion the larva mined the stem of a side umbel, commencing immediately below the umbel and mining towards the main stem. The larva vacated the stem to pupate by a small exit hole made just before the stem joined the main stem. Affected plants are fairly easy to see as the mined stem droops and the umbel withers. — R. J. HECKFORD, 67, Newnham Road, Plympton, Plymouth.